



2010 Annual Report

Creating Success Every Day

Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with a wide range of disabilities like autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental health and intellectual disabilities. Via's mission is to provide leadership, support, opportunities and resources for people with disabilities so they may be independent, productive and enjoy full lives within the community.

Via envisions a time when all people will have equal access to appropriate developmental and educational services, friends who care and relationships that are rich and meaningful, a rewarding career of their choice, and a satisfying retirement. Everyone deserves the chance to succeed and, through the support of our community, Via is able to provide support for the people we serve.

Children's Services

Children deserve a bright and healthy start in life. Recognizing developmental delays and treating them early is vital in the growth of children. Via's Children's Services can make all the difference in a family's life.

Early Intervention Program



Via's Early Intervention program is staffed by highly qualified and experienced professionals from a variety of disciplines.

Via's speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and special instructors work with children in their natural environments (homes, daycares, etc.) to meet individual needs of children and their families. Children are assessed by their therapist to determine their strengths. A plan is developed that helps each child learn and grow according to their needs and abilities.

Sibshops



Sibshops are lively celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. This series is for children

who want to celebrate the many contributions they make to their brothers and sisters with special needs and find support among peers experiencing the same types of things.

Sibshops intersperses information and discussion activities with games designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range.

Employment Services

Via's Community Employment services are based on the belief that Everybody Works™ and no one should be excluded. Work is a typical part of adult life and everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from being a part of the employed community. Every day, Via staff work on innovative ways to help people find and maintain employment in the community.

Community Employment



Via works to provide the best employment option for individuals and excels at creating innovative employment solutions that match business' needs. Via

enables adults with disabilities to work in integrated settings in the community and provides ongoing support so people can perform their job well. Via works one-on-one with adults and employers to make effective job matches, and provides onsite job coaching and support to assist individuals in getting, learning and keeping a job.

Business Services & ViaWorks



Via's Business Services & ViaWorks are avenues provided to help adults with disabilities develop skills and gain valuable work experience so

they are prepared to ultimately move to a job in the community. Via's Business Services subcontract to complete assembly and packaging for businesses. ViaWorks provides job training and work in community settings in positions including clerical, food service, housekeeping, janitorial, light manufacturing and production.

Community Connections

Via's Community Connections facilitates relationships between individuals and their communities through volunteer, recreational, social and educational activities.

Community Mentoring & Retirement Services



People want to be valuable, active and productive members of their community. Via helps individuals discover preferences and choose

recreational and volunteer activities to participate in as independently as possible. Via also helps people, age 55 and over, transition to retirement to maintain skills, participate in leisure and volunteer activities, stay active, and connect with activities in community settings.

Autism Services



Via's Autism Services provide adults with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis with educational, vocational and recreational activities in the community.

Teen Summer Experience



Via works with teens to develop educational, recreational and vocational goals centered on developing life skills.

This service includes job shadowing, career counseling, volunteering, and recreational and team-building activities that help prepare young adults to become successful members of the community upon graduation.

Supported Living



Via's Supported Living helps people live independently in their own apartment or home. Individuals explore where they want to live and if they want to live with a friend or on their own.



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In 2010*, Via of the Lehigh Valley provided services for 534 children and adults with disabilities throughout the greater Lehigh Valley, in Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks and Berks counties. Below is a summary of each service Via offers and significant milestones from the past year.

* 2010 refers to Via's fiscal year 2010, running from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Children's Services

- 116 children, from birth to age 3, and their families were provided with Early Intervention therapy and first steps towards school readiness. 8% of children receive multiple therapies.
- All Early Intervention therapies are provided in natural family home or daycare settings. Therapists provide therapy to the child and instruction to caregivers who provide "practice" with children between therapist visits.
- Via offered nationally recognized Sibshops program for siblings of children with disabilities in the Lehigh Valley.

Community Employment

- 234 people were assisted in acquiring and maintaining employment through job development, work assessments, follow-along support and small business ownership.
- Via's Community Employment service was recognized statewide as a Beacon of Employment Excellence.
- Via's partnership with the City of Bethlehem continued to help people in this community develop small businesses and create resource ownership opportunities.
- Via provided best practices in community employment training for more than 560 county and state human service professionals, educators, and other stake holders.
- Via continues to assist Bangor and Saucon Valley School Districts with transition and job development for teens and by providing training assistance for staff.

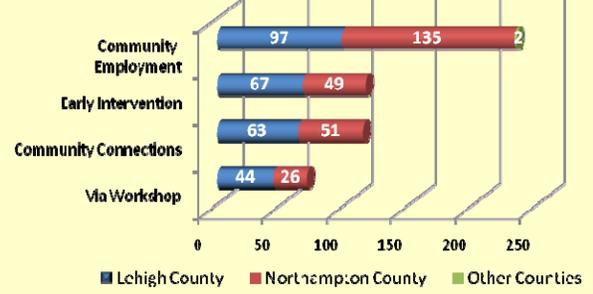
Community Connections

- 114 people received support for volunteer, recreation, and educational activities in their communities, as well as supported living assistance so they can live independently.
- 50 Lehigh Valley agencies partnered with Via and received more than 5,500 hours of volunteer assistance from people served in Community Connections.
- With a grant from Lehigh County Health Choices, Via now offers services specifically for adults with autism.
- Via's Summer Teen Experience offered 11 weeks of vocational exploration and recreational activities for 47 young people age 14 through 21.

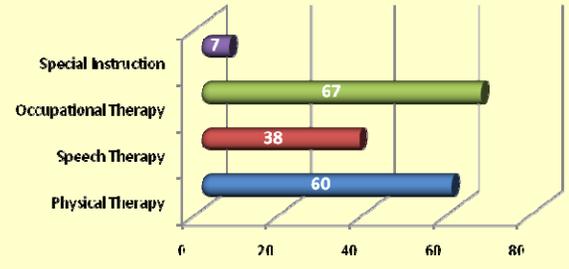
Via Workshop for Business Services

- 70 people engaged in packaging, assembly and other light industrial jobs for local manufacturing companies such as Crayola, B. Braun, Martin Guitar and Smooth-On Plastics.

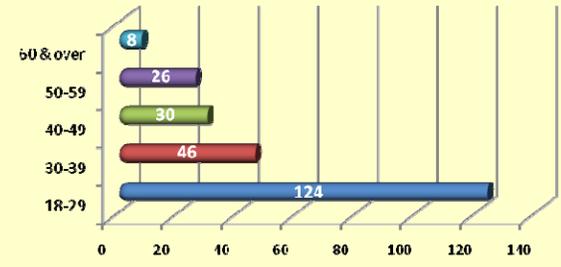
Individuals Served in Each Program



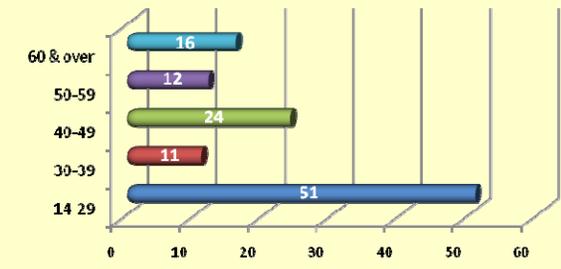
Early Intervention Therapies Provided



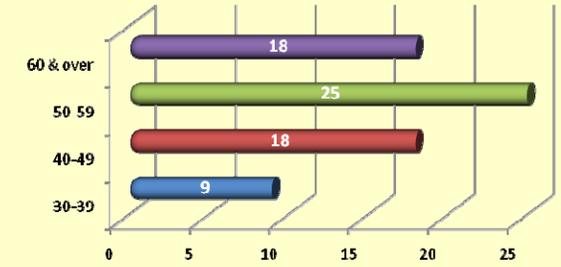
Age Breakdown for Community Employment



Age Breakdown for Community Connections



Age Breakdown for Via Workshop



Via Appoints New Executive Director

Mary Joy Kaiser-Reinartz Named to Lead Via



Via of the Lehigh Valley has selected Mary Joy Kaiser-Reinartz as its new executive director/president. Kaiser-Reinartz joins Via with a 30-year background in human services and nonprofit administration. Most recently, she served as vice president of Horizon House, Inc., a resource to communities in southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware for adults with mental health or intellectual disabilities and/or homelessness.

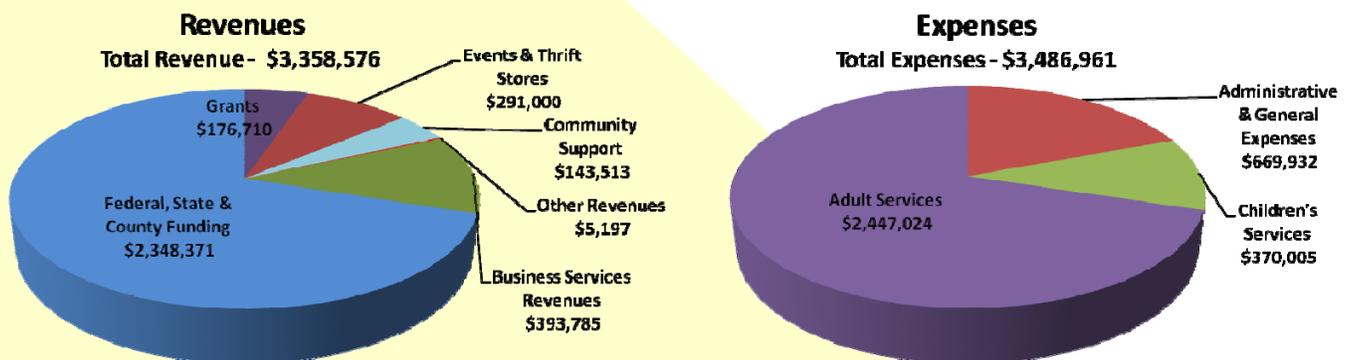
Kaiser-Reinartz was presented with the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities 2010 Rehabilitation Leadership Award the 2010 PARF Annual Conference in State College, PA. Kaiser-Reinartz's entrepreneurial drive puts her focus on growth and expansion with a dedication to high quality services.

"I was drawn to Via of the Lehigh Valley because of their commitment to children and adults, lasting community involvement, and for the opportunity to help grow an organization that has served the Lehigh Valley for more than 56 years," said Kaiser-Reinartz.

"The mission, vision and guiding principles of the organization are an inspiration and I look forward to continuing to bring those values to this community. I look forward to working with our Board of Directors, our talented staff and constituencies across the Lehigh Valley."

A Lehigh Valley native, Kaiser-Reinartz is an MBA graduate student at DeSales University.

Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Financial Statement - Year Ending June 30, 2010



Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit corporation providing services and supports for people with disabilities and their families. Via Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise and invest funds for the benefit of Via of the Lehigh Valley. Via Events is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to raise funds through sales at Via's thrift stores and through income from events for the benefit of Via of the Lehigh Valley.

Board of Directors, Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.

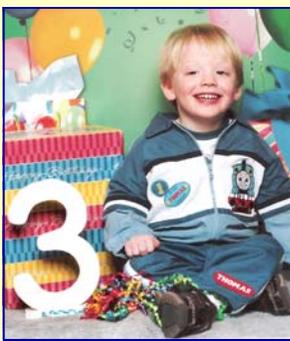
Eugene Lennon, Chair
Paul Pierpoint, Vice-Chair
Mark Bacak
Jim Backer
Sarah Eyster Berger
Larry Center
John Crampsie
Barbara Davies

John Diamant
Thomas A. Hutchinson
Joseph Kempfer
Lorinda Macaulay
Maryanne Schluckebier
Jerry Somers
Donna Taggart

Via of the Lehigh Valley Leadership Staff

Mary Joy Kaiser, executive director/president
Anthony Fili, chief operating officer
Randall Letterhouse, chief financial officer
Marianne Bear, vice president of services
Gerry Yasso, vice president resource development

Marisa Nimtien, director of Children's Services
Lisa Musselman, director of Community Connections
Corey Smith, director of Employment Services
Terry Laudenslager, manager of Transitional Employment
Lisa Walkiewicz, director of communications



Creating Success Every Day



Gracie – Early Intervention



Two-year old Gracie and her older brother's arguing seemed to be just a part of family life. However, Gracie had extreme difficulties communicating and was frustrated in her interactions with those who love her most. After evaluation by the Via's Early Intervention program, it was discovered that Gracie's speech

development was slower than that of most children her age. This discovery helped the family understand that Gracie's temper tantrums and arguments with her brother were a result of her frustration of not being able to communicate her feelings using speech.

Via began working with Gracie and her family on a weekly basis. The change has been dramatic since Via started working with her. Gracie's speech has improved and she has learned how to tell her family what she needs and wants without frustration.

Travis – Community Employment



Travis, a student at Bangor High School, wanted to be sure he was prepared for adult life after school. His school brought Via in and began working with him through a process called discovery, providing him opportunities to volunteer and job shadow in the community.

Through this process, Travis narrowed down his interests and likes to continuous interaction with people and organization. Through job shadowing, he learned organization and communication

skills. In addition, Travis' hard work and dedication earned him a part-time job at CVS. Travis stays busy outside of work and school, volunteering at a local rehab center, assisting at his church and volunteering at his school. Travis' opportunities for success continue to grow with his dedication to volunteering and love for his job.

Taren – Community Connections



As a volunteer at the Crayola Factory in Easton, Taren works with hundreds of children every day. Taren's shy and quiet demeanor disappears once she puts on her volunteer smock and starts handing out craft projects to the children. When Taren started volunteering, she was shy and rarely talked to anyone other than her Via Community Coach. But over the past two years, Taren's sense of independence has grown and so has her confidence.

Now she readily initiates conversations with other volunteers and interacts with staff, her volunteer director and the children and families at the Crayola Factory. Taren was recently recognized with The Crayola Factory Spirit of Volunteerism Award. She is a valuable member of her team, giving of her time to support the community and working with hundreds of children every day.

Alan – Community Connections



Alan was focused on his routine and didn't want to do anything to alter his daily activities. Fast forward to today and you can catch Alan at any number of community sites volunteering with his friends. Alan requests certain sites that involve activities he enjoys most like clerical work and any site that involves working around other people.

Alan's sense of humor has flourished and he's always ready to joke around with his friends and other volunteers with one of his one-liners. Alan continues to develop communication and other life skills needed for independent living and through Community Connections has developed bonds and relationships within his community.

Jacob – Early Intervention



Dear Ms. Kathy,

We greatly appreciate all you have done in your work with Jacob. It is obvious that his improvements are because of your hard work with him. We believe Jacob would not be as advanced in his developmental milestones if not for your patience, kindness and love for your work and the children you serve.

You have gone beyond the expectations that are required of you and Jacob has made such excellent progress in not only the occupational

therapy area but also social expression, development of individual interests, personality development, and expression of wants, needs and feelings.

Thank you for all of your efforts and know that you have brought joy to our family every week.

Our deepest thanks, Jacob's family

Bruce – Community Employment



After doing production work as part of a school program, Bruce wanted to pursue the same type of job after graduation. Cigars International gave Bruce the opportunity to participate in a work assessment and after two days, offered him a part-time job on the packaging line.

Bruce's coworkers have been very supportive and were quick to recognize his

talents and capabilities. His manager went out of his way to provide opportunities for Bruce to learn more responsibilities.

After five months on the job, Bruce was offered a full-time position. Bruce has found Cigars International to be a great place to work and his coworkers have made him a part of the team.

The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley United Way